AMERICA'S #1 SUPER HERO!

ECLIPSE

MIRACLEMAN

№3 75¢/ CAN. $1.00

by ALAN MOORE and ALAN DAVIS

MIRACLEMAN

OUT OF THE DARK

HE'LL COME FROM THE SOUTH. SINCE WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW POWERFUL THE MONSTER IS I SUGGEST WE DEPLOY TWO SPECIALISTS NEAR THE PERIMETER.
WHAT I'M SUGGESTING IS A SURPRISE ATTACK. WHO KNOWS? IT MIGHT PROVE SUCCESSFUL. PERHAPS THE MONSTER NEEDS TO CONCENTRATE TO MAINTAIN HIS INVULNERABILITY!
DO YOU EXPECT IT TO WORK, SIR DENNIS

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OUT OF THE DARK, HE IS SURFACING.

HIS STOMACH HURTS. HE IS STILL ALIVE. THERE IS A STRANGE BLUE CONSTELLATION IN A BLACK AND EMPTY SKY...

AH, MR. MORAN! YOU ARE AWAKE. I SHOULD IMAGINE THAT IS QUITE A RELIEF. HA HA.

MY NAME IS EVELYN CREAM. YOU MAY REMEMBER ME. I WAS THE BLACK GENTLEMAN WITH THE SAPPHIRE TEETH WHO SHOT YOU IN A LIFT RECENTLY.

TRANQUILISER BULLETS. THIS IS, OF COURSE, WHY YOUR TUMMY IS **SORE** RATHER THAN ENTIRELY **ABSENT**.

I WAS PAYED TO KILL YOU, YOU SEE, THAT BEING THE NATURE OF MY PROFESSION. AND YET... HA HA! WONDER OF WONDERS, HERE YOU ARE, STILL ALIVE!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHY?

FACT: YOU ARE CAPABLE OF BECOMING A SPLENDID CREATURE CALLED MIRACLEMAN AT THE MEREST UTTERANCE OF WHAT WE SHALL TERM A 'MAGIC WORD.' HENCE THE REGRETTABLE GAS.

FACT: YOU GAINED THIS CAPABILITY IN 1954. THIS WAS AS A RESULT OF AN EXPERIMENT TERMED **PROJECT ZARATHUSTRA**, CARRIED OUT BY A BRANCH OF AIRFORCE INTELLIGENCE KNOWN AS **THE SPOOKSHOW**.

FACT: IN 1963, THIS ORGANIZATION, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, DECIDED TO TERMINATE THE EXPERIMENT BY DESTROYING YOU AND TWO SIMILARLY GIFTED COMPANIONS WITH AN A-BOMB.

THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD SUCCEEDED. THEY HAD NOT. IN 1982, YOU RESURFACED. AT THIS POINT, I WAS HIRED TO UNCOVER YOUR TRUE IDENTITY AND THEN KILL YOU.

FACT: YOU ARE TOTALLY ASTOUNDED BY THIS INFORMATION.

SIR DENNIS, AREN'T WE OVER-REACTING? ARE WE CERTAIN THAT CREAM HAS SOLD US OUT?

HE CLAIMED TO HAVE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED THE SUBJECT: A MAN CALLED "PHILLIP WEBB." WE CHECKED IT OUT. "PHILLIP WEBB" DOESN'T EXIST.

CREAM WAS LYING TO US. HE'S NO IDIOT. HE MUST KNOW WHAT THE ZARATHUSTRA SECRET IS WORTH. NO, I THINK HE'S MADE A DEAL...

"I THINK HE'S MADE A DEAL WITH THE MONSTER."

THE STORY CANNOT POSSIBLY BE TRUE.

THE STORY MUST BE TRUE. THE COLD UNEARTHLY LIGHT OF CERTAINTY BEGINS TO GLIMMER IN HIS MIND. FROM THE SHADOWS OF DOUBT HE ADVANCES TOWARDS IT...

OUT OF THE DARK, HE IS COMING...

THE NIGHT COWERS AND CANNOT CONCEAL HIM...

THE NIGHT SCREAMS, AND CANNOT GAIN HIS ATTENTION...

THE NIGHT BURNS, AND ITS FIRES CANNOT CONTAIN HIM...

ASSUMING THE SURPRISE ATTACK FAILS, I NOMINATE A NUMBER OF SPECIALISTS WITH ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND THE LIKE AS OUR SECOND LINE OF DEFENCE...

SEWARD, IN 1965 WE HIT THIS CREATURE WITH AN ATOMIC BOMB...

OH, ***COME*** NOW, SIR DENNIS! ***ROCKET LAUNCHERS?*** OVER IN N.I. THE PADDIES USE THEM TO TAKE OUT OUR CHAPS' ***TANKS!*** SURELY AGAINST ONE MAN...

"IT DIDN'T WORK."

"SEWARD, WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM REACHING THAT BUNKER."

OUT OF THE DARK, HE IS EMERGING.

HE HAS A SUSPICION THAT HE HAS BEEN KEPT IN THE DARK FOR FAR TOO LONG...

YOU HAVE HEARD MY STORY, MR. MORAN. BE ASSURED THAT IT IS FOUNDED ON BOTH PERSONAL DEDUCTION AND UPON CERTAIN INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MY FORMER EMPLOYERS.

IT OCCURS TO ME THAT BOTH OF US HAVE EXCELLENT REASON TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER FURTHER.

YOU WISH TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR ORIGINS. I WISH TO SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE. I SUSPECT THAT IT MAY PROVE VALUABLE TO ME.

I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO EACH OTHER. IT IS THIS BELIEF THAT HAS PROMPTED ME TO RISK BETRAYING MY EMPLOYERS. IT NOW PROMPTS ME TO TAKE A ***GREATER*** RISK...

I'M GOING TO REMOVE YOUR GAG, MR. MORAN.

"KIMOTA."

SIR DENNIS... QUESTIONS ARE BOUND TO BE ASKED.. IF THE ZARATHUSTRA BUNKER REPRESENTS SUCH A SECURITY HAZARD, WHY WASN'T IT FOLDED EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO?

AND ALTHOUGH THE FRUITS OF MY LABOURS MIGHT ULTIMATELY PROVE THE ONLY MEANS WE HAVE OF STOPPING THIS CREATURE, I HOPE IT WILL NOT COME TO THAT...

I FEAR THE BLAME MUST REST WITH ME. I... DECIDED TO KEEP THE PROJECT PARTLY OPEN. I HOPED TO RECOUP SOME OF ZARATHUSTRA'S ENORMOUS BUDGET...

"ONE MONSTER IS MORE THAN ENOUGH."

REMARKABLE.

IN THE GATHERING TWILIGHT OF THE ROOM THERE STANDS AN INCANDESCENT MAN...

OUT OF THE DARK, HE IS COMING...

NO ENTRY GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

THERE ARE WALLS, AND HE DOES NOT CARE ABOUT THE WALLS.

THERE ARE MEN, AND THE MEN MEAN NOTHING TO HIM.

THERE ARE SNARES...

AND THE SNARES ARE NOT WORTHY OF HIS CONTEMPT.

OUR PENULTIMATE LINE OF DEFENCE WILL BE A BOMB. QUITE A ***LARGE*** BOMB, I WOULD IMAGINE...

OUR MEN WILL STILL BE IN THE AREA, SIR DENNIS...

THEY WILL BE AWARE OF THE BOMB. IT WILL GIVE THEM A GREATER INCENTIVE TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE REACHES IT. AND IF NEITHER THEY NOR THE BOMB ARE ABLE TO STOP HIM...

"...THEN IT IS BETTER THERE ARE NO WITNESSES FOR WHAT MUST FOLLOW."

HE APPROACHES THE BUNKER. THERE IS SOMETHING STANDING IN ITS SHADOWS...

OUT OF THE DARK, THE DARK OF LEGEND INTO THE HARSH LAMPLIGHT OF MODERN REALITY...

AND HE IS STILL UNBELIEVABLE.

AND UNKNOWABLE.

AND UNNERVING

VERY WELL, MR. CREAM. I THINK I'M PREPARED TO TRUST YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

THE... ER... THAT IS TO SAY...

THE BUNKER IN WHICH YOU WERE UNKNOWINGLY SUBJECTED TO THE EXPERIMENTS OF THE SPOOKSHOW IS FOR SOME REASON STILL STANDING. IT IS LOCATED IN THE COTSWOLD HILLS...

MR. MORAN... MY FORMER EMPLOYERS MAY HAVE LEARNED OF MY DUPLICITY BY NOW. THEY MAY HAVE HAD TIME TO ERECT DEFENCES. THERE COULD BE TROOPS, THERE COULD BE BOOBY TRAPS...

I SUPPOSE THERE COULD.

I DON'T CARE.

YOU'RE NOT TALKING TO MIKE MORAN NOW, YOU KNOW.

SIR DENNIS, I BELIEVE YOU'RE DELIBERATELY KEEPING OLIVER AND MYSELF IN THE DARK. WHAT *ARE* THESE DESPERATE MEASURES YOU KEEP MENTIONING?

SEWARD'S RIGHT. YOU HINTED THAT THEY WERE CONNECTED TO SOME FURTHER YIELD FROM THE ZARATHUSTRA FIASCO. IT'S ONLY PROPER THAT WE SHOULD BE TOLD.

OH, CERTAINLY IT'S PROPER, GENTLEMEN...

"IT JUST ISN'T *SAFE*."

THEY RIDE THE RAZOR EDGE OF THE WIND, THE MAN OF LIGHT CARRYING THE MAN OF SHADOWS THROUGH THE FREEZING SKY...

OUT OF THE DARK, HE IS COMING...

NOT SO FAST, YOU BOLSHEVIK BLIGHTER.

THERE STILL STANDS ONE WHO IS PREPARED TO DEFEND QUEEN AND COUNTRY AGAINST YOUR KREMLIN MASTERS AND THEIR LACKEYS.

IS THIS A JOKE OF SOME SORT?

NO, SIR, IT MOST ASSUREDLY IS NOT.

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A ***TROUNCING***, MY SIZEABLE SOVIET FRIEND

SPARE US YOUR COYNESS, SIR DENNIS. YOU IMPLY THAT YOU HAVE SPENT THE YEARS SINCE '65 IN DUPLICATING THE ORIGINAL ZARATHUSTRA EXPERIMENT, THAT YOU HAVE PRODUCED ***ANOTHER*** MONSTER?

YES. YES I HAVE. BUT THE PROJECT'S ORIGINATOR DESTROYED MANY OF HIS NOTES BEFORE HE ABSCONDED. WE ONLY DIMLY UNDERSTOOD THE PROCESS. THERE WERE PROBLEMS...

OH, ***GOD***. NOT ***MORE*** BLOODY PROBLEMS. TELL ME, SIR DENNIS... DOES THIS FLAWED SUPERBEING OF YOURS HAVE A CUSTOMERILY ABSURD SOBRIQUET?

"YES, OLIVER, HE DOES..."

"WE CALL HIM ***BIG BEN.***"

MIRACLEMAN

"INSIDE STORY"

"MR. CREAM. IT IS YOU I AM ADDRESSING, SIR. IT IS YOU TO WHOM I REFER..."

"REALLY, OLD HORSE! THESE ANTICS SMACK OF THE DAUBED FACE AND THE OSTRICH PLUME. IT SEEMS ONE CANNOT TAKE THE JUNGLE OUT OF THE BOY AFTER ALL. WHAT DO YOU SAY, MR. CREAM?"

"EDUCATED AT RUGBY. TRAINED AT SANDHURST. YOU READ THE UNTRANSLATED NOVELS OF COLLETTE AND OWN AN ORIGINAL HOCKNEY. GOOD GOD, SIR, YOU ARE PRACTICALLY WHITE."

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SIR? WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK IN THIS PLACE, CREEPING AMONGST THE NIGHT TREES AND SNIFFING AT THE ANCESTRAL SHADOWS?"

"YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL, AN ARTIST IN THE WAYS OF MORTALITY. YOU KILLED THE BEAST-DADDY, LAUGHING AS YOU BLEW HIS BRAINS OVER HIS EPAULETTES. YOU ARE A MAN OF POWER."

"AND YET YOU FOLLOW THIS WHITE **LOA**, THIS MIRACLE-MAN WHO LEAVES A TRAIL OF DEAD AND FISHEYED FELLOWS IN HIS WAKE! CAN IT BE THAT YOU HAVE GONE NATIVE, MR. CREAM?"

"MR. CREAM, DO YOU AT LAST BELIEVE IN JUJU?"

"GREAT GRANDFATHER, PASS ME DOWN THE GRIS-GRIS AND THE POINTING BONE, FOR I HAVE AT THIS LATE STAGE OPTED TO BECOME ANOTHER CRAZY NIGGER."

"FROM THE TOP SECRET FILES OF ***BIG BEN***, THE MAN WITH NO TIME FOR CRIME..."

"IT LOOKED AS IF THIS PARTICULAR JOHNNY BOLSHEVIK WAS GOING TO BE A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK. I RECALLED THE CLIPPED AND MEASURED PHRASES OF ***SIR DENNIS ARCHER***..."

"'IT'S OUR FRIENDS IN THE KREMLIN, BEN. THEY WANT THE PLANS TO OUR NEW ZARATHUSTRA ***DEATH-RAY*** AND THEY'VE SENT A SUPER-COMMIE TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK!'"

"'HIS NAME IS MAJOR MOLOTOV, AND ONLY YOU CAN STOP HIM.'"

"BUT COULD I? COULD I STOP THIS MARXIST MADMAN WHO HAD ALREADY SO BRUTALLY DISPATCHED A SCORE OF OUR FINEST TOMMIES?"

"HE HAD TO HAVE A WEAKNESS, AN ACHILLES' HEEL. I REMEMBERED WHEN I HAD FOUGHT ALONGSIDE ***DOC THUNDERBOLT*** AGAINST THE HORRIFYING BEING KNOWN ONLY AS ***MENACE!***"

"BUT WE DID, AND ***MENACE!*** WAS DESTROYED FOREVER... AS WERE ALL THE OTHER FIENDS WHO SPRANG UP TO TAKE HIS PLACE..."

"THE ***CRIMSON FINGER***, THE ***SPONGE***, ***DR. PANIC*** AND HIS ***PHANTOM ROBOT***, EVEN ***PHINEAS FISKE***, THE CREATURE WITH THE COBALT BRAIN..."

"I WAS BALLY WELL GOING TO HAVE A GO!"

"***MENACE!*** HAD KIDNAPPED DOC'S BEAUTIFUL ASSISTANT ***VALERIE***. IF WE HADN'T DISCOVERED THAT THE BRUTE WAS VULNERABLE TO ***COMMON TAP WATER*** HER DOOM WOULD HAVE BEEN ASSURED..."

"ONE BY ONE THEY CAME. ONE BY ONE THEY RECEIVED THEIR JUST DESSERTS AT THE DEPENDABLE HANDS OF ***THE MAN WITH NO TIME FOR CRIME***."

"THIS RED RACKETEER WOULD PROVE NO EXCEPTION. SOON I'D HIT UPON HIS WEAKNESS. (ELECTRICITY, PERHAPS? OR SOME UNKNOWN MINERAL?) SOON, SOON I'D UNCOVER HIS FATAL FLAW..."

"THEN HE'D BE IN TROUBLE."

"JUST HOLD THE LINE FOR A SEC-OND LON-GER DAMN DAMN BLOODY DEATH AND HELL NOW THE LEGS LOOK OUT OF PROPORTION DAMN THE DEADLINE'S TOMORROW DAMN"

"PROCESS WHITE, PROCESS WHITE..AHH NO! I DIDN'T LEAVE THE YES I DID I LEFT THE TOP OFF AND IT'S GONE HARD I BLOODY HATE IT WHEN IT GOES HARD"

"IT MUST BE MY BODY REACTING TO THE LUMP SHUNTING ALL THE CHEMICALS AROUND AND MAKING ME FEEL ANXIOUS JUST A NERVOUS THING EVERY-THING'S OKAY WHY IS THIS BRUSH ALL GUNGY?"

"MIKE, WHY THE HELL HAVEN'T YOU COME HOME YET?

"WHERE ARE YOU? PERHAPS IF I PHONED THE PAPER.. NO, YOU'D BE ANNOYED AND ANYWAY YOU'LL COME HOME SOON BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS DO EVENTUALLY.."

"I HOPE THE BABY'S ALRIGHT I'M 38, AROUND 40 THEY SAY YOU RUN A GREATER RISK... MONGOLOID BABIES AND... NO THEY RAN AN AMNIOCENTESIS THEY SAID IT WAS NORMAL, NORMAL."

"IT HASN'T KICKED YET"

"GIVE IT A REST, LIZZIE EVERYTHING'S FINE BABY MORAN FINE, MUMMY MORAN FINE, DADDY MORAN FINE
M RALLEMAN

"THE PERSPECTIVE ON THAT CHAIR'S WRONG"

"IT'S MIRACLEMAN'S BABY IT'LL BE BORN WITH SUPER-POWERS NO, IT'LL BE BORN WITH NO ARMS OR EYES AND JUST A HORRIBLE SCREAMING MOUTH THAT DRIBBLES BLOOD AND PUS AND..."

"I WISH I KNEW WHO HE WAS"

"I WISH HE'D STOP HITTING ME."

"I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM. HE ISN'T AS POWERFUL AS I AM AND I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIS MIND."

"FLAWLESS CHINA BLUE EYES THAT NEVER BLINK, AND GLITTER LIKE MARBLES. HE'S A PSYCHOPATH."

"... AND HE'S A SUPERHUMAN. BUT WHERE DID HE COME FROM? FIRST A HIRED KILLER CHANGES SIDES AND TELLS ME OF A GOVERNMENT PLOT TO MURDER ME..."

"THEN HE LEADS ME TO A BUNKER UP HERE IN THE COTSWOLDS WHERE HE ASSURES ME I'LL FIND EVIDENCE CONCERNING MY TRUE ORIGINS AS MIRACLEMAN. HE TELLS ME TO GO ON AHEAD..."

"SOME SOLDIERS TRY TO CUT MY THROAT. SOME MORE SOLDIERS FIRE ROCKETS AND FLAME-THROWERS AT ME. A BOMB IS EXPLODED UNDERNEATH MY FEET."

"FINALLY I'M ATTACKED BY A SUPERHUMAN LUNATIC IN A BOWLER HAT WHO THINKS I'M A COMMUNIST."

"I COULD GET TIRED OF THIS."

SURRENDER, BUTCHER OF LENINGRAD!! SURRENDER OR FIGHT LIKE A **MAN**, DAMN YOUR EYES!

"ALL RIGHT"

"ALL RIGHT"

KKRAAAITTCCHH

SCHITTRA!!!

"WHITE MAN'S MAGIC"

MR MORAN

MR MORAN

MIRACLEMAN.

MIRACLEMAN BUT OF COURSE MIRACLEMAN WE HAVE LITTLE TIME

THERE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE BACK-UP TROOPS IN THE AREA

IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME TO BLAST OPEN THE BUNKER DOOR ..

MR MOR, MIRACLEMAN! WAIT! THERE MAY BE TRAPS..

THERE MAY BE . . .

THERE COULD BE

GREAT GOD.

"WE ARRIVED ON THE SITE OF THE ZARATHUSTRA BUNKER AT 3.40 A.M. THIS WAS ON THE MORNING OF JULY 9TH, 1982."

"YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IN SUCH EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES THE SITUATION IS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR AND DISCRETION IS THE BEST COURSE HENCE MY OWN ACTIONS."

"I HOPE THAT YOU WILL READ IT CAREFULLY AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO ACCEPT MY PROFFERED RESIGNATION. I REMAIN, YOURS FAITHFULLY."

"THE CARNAGE WAS HORRIFYING. MOST OF OUR SPECIALISTS WERE DEAD INJURED OR IN DEEP SHOCK. IN LIGHT OF THIS ORDERING FURTHER TROOPS INTO THE AREA SEEMED POINTLESS."

"INDEED, IT WAS NOT UNTIL LATER THAT WE WERE ABLE TO RECONSTRUCT WHAT HAD HAPPENED WITHIN THE BUNKER FROM THE SURVIVING EVIDENCE. MY REPORT FOLLOWS."

"SIR DENNIS ARCHER."

"COMPARING THE TIME OF OUR ARRIVAL WITH THAT OF LATER EVENTS WE'VE DEDUCED THAT THE EXPERIMENTAL SUPERHUMAN "BIG BEN" REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AT APPROXIMATELY 3.55."

"AS TO HIS STATE OF MIND AT THIS POINT I'M AFRAID WE CAN ONLY GUESS."

"DUE TO HIS PARA-REALITY PROGRAMMING BIG BEN BELIEVED THE MONSTER TO BE A SOVIET SPY NAMED 'MAJOR MOLOTOV' A DECEPTION NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MOTIVATE HIM."

"AT AROUND 5.35 WE BELIEVE HE AWOKE AND DESPITE HIS INJURIES MADE HIS WAY BACK TO THE BUNKER INTENT UPON FINISHING THE FIGHT THAT HE HAD STARTED."

"FURTHERMORE, HE BELIEVED THE BUNKER TO CONTAIN A PROTOTYPE DEATH RAY' WHICH HE HAD BEEN TOLD MAJOR MOLOTOV' WAS INTENT UPON STEALING."

"AS FOR THE MONSTER AND EVELYN CREAM, DIGITAL RECORDERS IN THE BUNKER SHOW THAT IT WAS BREACHED AT EXACTLY 2.39. ONCE INSIDE, WE ASSUME THEY SPENT THE NEXT HALF HOUR SIMPLY LOOKING."

"THEY WOULD HAVE ALMOST CERTAINLY NOTICED THE SKELETON(S) OF THE DEAD SUPERHUMAN."

"LIKEWISE THE SKELETON(S) OF THE VISITOR AND THE MOUNTED HULL FRAGMENT OF THE VISITOR'S CRAFT. IN THEMSELVES HOWEVER, THESE EXHIBITS WOULD MEAN LITTLE TO THE UNINFORMED."

"IN THEMSELVES THEY WOULD NOT HAVE PROVOKED A REACTION FEROCIOUS ENOUGH TO DEVASTATE MILLIONS OF POUNDS WORTH OF TECHNOLOGY."

"IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER THAT ***SOMETHING*** DID."

"WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT IT WAS THE VIDEO TAPES AND THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE CONTAINED THEREIN THAT TRIGGERED THE MONSTER'S APOCALYPTIC OUTBURST."

"AGAIN, ON-SITE DIGITAL RECORDERS INFORM US THAT THE VIDEO MONITORS WERE USED AND THAT SEVERAL KEY SEQUENCES OF A CLASSIFIED NATURE WERE VIEWED IN THEIR ENTIRETY."

"BUT AS TO WHICH PIECE OF INFORMATION SHOULD AFFECT THE MONSTER SO SEVERELY WE CANNOT SAY WITH ANY PRECISION. REMEMBER, WE ARE DEALING WITH A MIND THAT IS NOT HUMAN."

"ALL WE CAN SAY IS THAT THE MASTER VIDEO DISPLAY WAS ACTIVATED AT 3:00, THAT CREAM AND THE MONSTER SPENT THE NEXT THREE QUARTERS OF AN HOUR STUDYING IT."

"... AND THAT AT 3:56 A.M. THE CREATURE KNOWN AS MIRACLEMAN WENT SUDDENLY AND INEXPLICABLY BERSERK."

MIRACLEMAN

"ZARATHUSTRA"

"THE FIRST SECTION OF TAPE TO BE VIEWED ACCORDING TO OUR RECONSTRUCTION, COMMENCED AT 3 10 A M AND CONCERNED THE ZARATHUSTRA PROCESS ITSELF "

AND SO IN SUMMARY THE MAJOR POINTS OF THE PROCESS ARE AS FOLLOWS

FIRSTLY WITH WHAT KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE GLEANED FROM OUR STUDY OF THE V SITOR AND ITS CRAFT WE BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO REPLICATE A HUMAN BEING FROM A SINGLE CELL

THE AMERICANS AND THE CHINESE ARE CURRENTLY BELIEVED TO BE WORK NG ON SOMETHING S M LAR BUT OUR PROCESS DIFFERS IN THAT THE REPLICATE HAS AN ALTERED D N A STRUCTURE

BOTH ITS BRAIN AND BODY ARE ALMOST PERFECTLY EVOLVED LENDING IT A W DE RANGE OF EXTRA-HUMAN ABIL T ES IT DOES NOT HOWEVER POSSESS ITS OWN INDEPENDENT CONSCIOUSNESS.

THE NEXT STAGE IS THE IMPLANTING OF TWO IDENTICAL INFRA-SPATIAL TRIGGER DEVICES INTO THE BRA N OF THE EVOLVED REPLICATE AND THE BRAIN OF ITS CELL DONOR.

HERE WE SEE THE OPERATIONS BE NG PERFORMED S MULTANEOUSLY UPON THE BRAIN OF OUR SECOND SUBJECT AND THAT OF HIS CELLULAR REPLICATE, DESIGNATED "YOUNG MIRACLEMAN"

I REMIND YOU THAT THIS STAGGER NG TECHNOLOGY IS PURELY THAT WHICH WE HAVE EXTRAPOLATED FROM THE REMA NS OF OUR UNFORTUNATE V S TOR

THE NEXT STAGE IS THE DISPLACEMENT OF THE REPLICATE INTO NFRA-SPACE WHERE IT REMA NS CONNECTED TO ITS HUMAN COUNTERPART BY THE AGENCY OF THE IMPLANTED TRIGGER DEVICE

WHEN THE TR GGER DEVICE IS ACTIVATED THE HUMAN BODY IS DISPLACED INTO NFRA SPACE WHILE THE REPLICATE BODY MOVES INTO OUR OWN CONTINUUM

IT IS AT THIS PO NT THAT THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE HUMAN FORM IS TRANSFERRED TO THAT OF THE REPLICATE THE TRIGGER DEVICE IS ACTIVATED BY THE SPEAKING OF A POST-HYPNOTIC KEY WORD

IN THE CASE OF THIS PARTICULAR SUBJECT THE KEY WORD IS THE NAME OF HIS SEN'OR PROTEGE "MIRACLEMAN

OH GOD.

"AT 5 22, THE VIDEO TAPE WAS WOUND FORWARD TO A SECTION DEALING, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, WITH THE TACTICAL APPLICATION OF PROJECT ZARATHUSTRA."

NECESSITY IN VIEW OF THE FACT [redacted] THE ATOMIC BOMB AND RUSSIA AND CHINA WILL SHORTLY BE SIMILARLY ENDOWED. BRITAIN [redacted]

[redacted] THE TACTICAL POTENTIAL OF PROJECT ZARATHUSTRA WILL [redacted] WEAPONRY, INCLUDING THE [redacted]

BY WAY OF ILLUSTRATION, HERE WE SEE THE YOUNGEST SUBJECT DESIGNATED "K D MIRACLEMAN" IN A FIELD TEST DURING WHICH HE OUTRACED THE FASTEST CONTEMPORARY JET AEROPLANE.

AND HERE WE SEE HIM PENETRATING A BUNKER OF SOLID TITANIUM AS IF IT DID NOT EXIST. IMAGINE THE MEGA-DEATH POTENTIAL OF SUCH A CREATURE IN AN INTER-NATIONAL CONFLICT

NATURALLY, IN CHOOSING [redacted] EXPERIMENT WE HAVE NOT BEEN [redacted] THE CONCEPT [redacted]

[redacted] TO DATE HAVE BEEN YOUNG MALES, THE CHILDREN OF DECEASED AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, AND HAVE NO OTHER SURVIVING RELATIVES

[redacted] FILES TO WHICH AIRFORCE [redacted] HAS [redacted]

MORAN'S FATHER

MORAN'S FATHER WAS IN THE R.A.F. HE DIED DURING THE WAR. AND DICKY... I REMEMBER THAT HIS FATHER HAD BEEN AN AIRFORCE MAJOR. OH, GOD. WHY DIDN'T WE [redacted]?

WHY DIDN'T WE REALISE WHAT THEY WERE DOING TO OUR LIVES?

"AT 3:43, THEY PRESUMABLY OVERWOUND THE TAPE AND THE NEXT SECTION WAS VIEWED OUT OF SEQUENCE, CHRONICLING AS IT DOES THE EVENTS OF 1968 RATHER THAN THOSE OF 1954-55 "

AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT WHEN THE PROJECT'S ORIGINATOR VANISHED FIVE YEARS AGO HE TOOK MANY OF HIS FINDINGS WITH H.M., IT WAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT

ZARATHUSTRA MK II HAS NOT BEEN AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS, OWING TO THE GAPS IN OUR TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE THE RESULT IS THE FLAWED SUPERHUMAN DESIGNATED "BIG BEN"

THE ACHIEVABLE POWER-LEVELS OF THE BIG BEN MODEL ARE MARKEDLY INFERIOR TO THOSE OF HIS PREDECESSORS OF FIFTEEN YEARS BEFORE.

WHILE HE CAN FLY, IS INHUMANLY STRONG AND HIGHLY RESISTANT TO DAMAGE HE IS POSSESSED OF NOWHERE NEAR THE SAME ABILITIES AS THE 'MIRACLEMAN' TRIO THIS HOWEVER, IS NOT HIS GREATEST FAULT

DUE TO OUR LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF THE PARA-REALITY PROGRAMMING NECESSARY IN ORDER TO CONTROL THESE REMARKABLE CREATURES BIG BEN RECEIVED INADEQUATE CONDITIONING

AS A RESULT HIS MIND BECAME UNBALANCED ALTHOUGH THIS CONDITION MAKES HIM DEADLY SUGGESTIBLE FOR OUR PURPOSES IT LIMITS HIS EFFECTIVENESS AGAINST A RATIONAL OPPONENT

THAT EXPLAINS WHO THAT MANIAC OUTSIDE WAS.

. BUT WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS A PARA-REALITY PROGRAMMING PROCESS? OR AN INFRA-SPATIAL BRAIN IMPLANT FOR THAT MATTER? OR A CELLULAR REPLICATE?

THE IDEA OF A CELLULAR REPLICATE SOUNDS VERY SIMILAR TO THE CURRENTLY FASHIONABLE CLONING PROCESS.

CREAM, THIS HAPPENED IN THE EARLY 1950'S ACCORDING TO THAT LAST TAPE IN THE EARLY '50'S WE HADN'T EVEN DEVELOPED POLIO VACCINE.

WIND IT BACK AND LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT WE MISSED..

"ACCORDING TO OUR ESTIMATE THIS WAS AT ROUGHLY 3:48 A.M FROM WHAT WE CAN GATHER, BIG BEN ARRIVED IN THE BUNKER UNNOTICED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:42 A.M"

"IT IS OUR OPINION THAT HE SAW THE PRECEDING VIDEO SEQUENCE IN ITS ENTIRETY IT CONTAINED MUCH INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN TO HIM, HENCE HIS CURRENT CONDITION"

"ALTHOUGH AS I HAVE SAID, WE CANNOT BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN WHICH PIECE OF INFORMATION PREFACED THE MONSTER'S ERUPTION, THE SEQUENCE EMBARKED UPON AT 3.48 SEEMS A STRONG CONTENDER."

"THE SEQUENCE IN QUESTION DESCRIBES THE PARA-REALITY PROGRAMMING PROCESS."

IN ORDER TO FULLY CONTROL THE THOUGHT PROCESSES AND MOTIVATIONS OF THESE POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC CREATURES AN ENTIRELY ARTIFICIAL REALITY SET IS CONSTRUCTED

THE REALITY SET IS THEN FED DIRECTLY INTO THEIR UNCONSCIOUS MINDS WHILE THEY LAY UNDER THE EFFECTS OF POWERFUL SEDATIVES. BRIEFLY, THE PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS

THE DREAM WORLD WHICH WE HAVE CONSTRUCTED IS ONE IN WHICH A PSEUDO-RATIONAL EXPLANATION EXISTS FOR THESE BEINGS AND THEIR ABHUMAN ABILITIES

IT IS A JUVENILE BUT EFFECTIVE SCENARIO IN WHICH THE CREATURES BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN MADE INTO 'SUPER-HEROES' BY A SEMI-MYSTICAL BEING NAMED SUNTAG BORGHELM'

AS THEY LAY UPON THE SOMATIC-INDUCER COUCHES, THESE FANTASIES ARE PUMPED INTO THEIR SLEEPING CONSCIOUSNESS BY OUR VISITOR-DERIVED TECHNOLOGY.

WE ARE THUS ABLE TO FULLY TEST THEIR RESPONSES AND REACTIONS WITH A TOTALLY SAFE HALLUCINATORY 'DRY RUN' RATHER LIKE A FLIGHT SIMULATOR

SOME OF THE FANTASIES WE PROJECT CONTAIN DELIBERATE CONTRADICTIONS. SOME CONTAIN EVENTS TO STRETCH THE SUBJECTS CREDIBILITIES TO THE FULLEST

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE HOW OUR ARTIFICIAL BELIEF-SYSTEM WILL ENDURE UNDER STRESS

MILE

WITH CREATURES OF THIS CAPABILITY WE CAN AFFORD NO ERROR THUS OUR PROGRAMMING HAS BEEN LENGTHY AND EXHAUSTIVE. THE DATE OF THIS RECORDING IS JANUARY, 1982

AND THE CREATURES HAVE LAIN DREAMING FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS. THEIR ENTIRE EXISTENCE A COMPUTER-DESIGNED FANTASY

IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN THE FINER DETAILS OF THIS ALL-IMPORTANT MIND PROGRAMMING HERE IS THE CONTROLLER AND ORIGINATOR OF THE ZARATHUSTRA PROJECT

DR EMIL GARGUNZA

GREETINGS.

AS YOU HAVE SEEN, BY EMPLOYING THE TECHNOLOGY GLEANED FROM THE VISITOR AND HIS CRAFT WE HAVE COMPLETELY PROGRAMMED THE MINDS OF THESE NEAR-DIVINE CREATURES.

PROVIDING THEM IN THE PROCESS WITH AN UTTERLY MANUFACTURED IDENTITY WHICH IS OURS TO MANIPULATE AT WILL. TO WHIT: THE IDENTITY OF A CHILDREN'S COMIC-BOOK CHARACTER.

GAAARRR-GUNZAAAAAAA!

"IT WAS AT 3 56 THAT THE VIDEO MACHINE MALFUNCTIONED AND JAMMED."

"IT WAS AT 3 56 THAT THE MONSTER WENT BERSERK."

COMIC BOOK CHARACTER..

COMIC BOOK CHARACTER...

COMIC BOOK CHARACTER.

"WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT AFTER THE MONSTER'S INITIAL RAGE HAD ABATED, CREAM SOMEHOW MANAGED TO CALM HIM DOWN."

"THE DAMAGE WAS EXTENSIVE."

"WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, CREAM AND THE SUPERHUMAN VACATED THE BUNKER AT 4 10 A.M."

"IT ONLY REMAINED FOR MYSELF AND THE CLEAN-UP CREW TO MOVE IN."

"AND PICK UP THE PIECES."

"FOR THAT, AT LEAST, WE CAN BE GRATEFUL TO HIM."

"REPORT ENDS."

EPILOGUE

"FROM THE TOP SECRET FILES OF BIG BEN THE MAN WITH NO TIME FOR CRIME."

"FOR A MOMENT, MAJOR MOLOTOV HAD ALMOST HAD ME FOOLED WITH HIS DEVILISH RED PROPAGANDA LUCKILY, **JACK KETCH** AND **OWLWOMAN** MY COLLEAGUES FROM THE **BULLDOG BRIGADE** ARRIVED JUST IN TIME."

OKAY, FIONA, APPROACH HIM CAREFULLY.

REMEMBER, HE'S DANGEROUS...

"JACK KETCH SMILED GRIMLY AS HE TOLD ME HOW THE RED ROGUE HAD USED A **BRAIN BEAM** TO MAKE ME DOUBT MY OWN IDENTITY A FIENDISH TRICK THAT OH SO NEARLY WORKED."

"LUCKILY OWLWOMAN HAD BROUGHT AN ULTRA-VEST FROM HER MOUNTAIN FORTRESS WHICH WOULD DRAIN OFF THE HARMFUL MIND-CLOUDING RADIATION IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE SUCH STAUNCH ALLIES"

THERE'S A DOUBLE LOCK ON THE CLASP MAKE SURE IT'S PROPERLY FASTENED. WE DON'T WANT THIS BLOODY LUNATIC BURSTING LOOSE HALFWAY DOWN THE M-WAY

"AS THEY HELPED ME FROM THE BUNKER TOWARDS THE WAITING **OWLCAR** THEY TOLD ME THAT THANKS TO MY DELAYING TACTICS THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT MOLOTOV ESCAPING WITH THE DEATH RAY"

"I SMILED IT WAS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT THE SOVIET SUPER-VILLAIN DESPITE HIS POWERS OWED HIS DEFEAT TO **THE MAN WITH NO TIME FOR CRIME!**"

OKAY EASY DOES IT EASY

COME ON LET'S GET HIM FASTENED IN AND THEN LET'S TAKE THE POOR BASTARD HOME

AT 38 IN THE GODLUM LIT HOUR BEFORE DAWN THE GREAT TRUCKS ROLL SOUTH SOME CARRY BREAKFAST CEREAL AND SOME CARRY BALLBEARINGS SOME ARE **EMPTY**..

AND SOME ARE **NOT.**

END

MIRACLEMAIL

P.O.BOX.199 GUERNEVILLE, CA 95446

Dear Editors and folks associated with *Miracleman* #1;

Jesus H. Christ Gawdalmighty!!!! (Let me here say that I have *never* before written to a comic book and that I had never heard of *Marvelman* until a friend showed me the *Marvelman Special.)* How is it that Alan Moore can take campy, almost ridiculous comic characters and give them unexpected depths of character? What inspires him to soar to poetic heights with his scripting? (Gotta get ahold of meself here—I'm getting syrupy.) Why aren't there more scripters like him?

I just read *Miracleman* #1 today and, needless to say, I was impressed! Chapter 1, the reprint, was sooo campy it was almost embarrassing. Why this episode, I wonder? Does Moore (who never does anything without a reason) mean to imply that it has some bearing on the current storyline? And why do the time travelers, with their silly weaponry, come from 1981 (why, for that matter, does the story take place in 1982—three years in the past)? I'm sure the answers will come out in good time in a typical Moore-ish logical but totally unforeseeable climax. He *does* have a way with intertwined plots.

As for the later chapters—opening them with a quote from Nietzsche was a tour de force. In conjunction with the zoom-in on Miracleman's smiling face, the quote brought in perfectly the new serious and sinister mood. Garry Leach's artwork—oy! It fits perfectly with Moore's script. His modeling of shadows and dark masses around cleanly drawn faces and bodies deftly suggests the old Miracleman while introducing the new. This is a book to be proud of, folks!

Michael Moran's nightmare is vivid and disturbing. The discovery that he is a middle-aged, rather unattractive man susceptible to migraines (something I get meself) is also disturbing. It makes one wonder what Moore is up to. The episode with the terrorists is surreal. They're so businesslike! But then—the rebirth of Miracleman! Whoooo! This is what comics are about! The other touches—Liz's incredulity, Kid Miracleman, the gathering storm, the tiger—they add life and interest to the story. But there was one panel—one incident—that really grabbed me.

On page 25, the first panel, Young Miracleman, "Dicky with the stupid name," died. Screaming. Two bodies fused in one. It was a horrible way to go, but why were there two of him? What could he be screaming? Then, oh my god, it hit me—he was screaming for *help*, he was screaming for *Miracleman!* By calling for his friend, he called out the very phrase that would turn him into a normal human in the midst of an A-bomb explosion. Is that why he died and the others didn't?

This wasn't the worst of it, however. In a flash of memory, I recalled, from the *Marvelman Special*, a strange skeleton trophy—of two people fused together. Jesus! How horrible! How wonderful! It's such an awful thing to happen, but it's such a fantastic thing to put in. I can't come up with the proper adjectives. Alan Moore is just incredible. Garry Leach is impressive. *Miracleman* is superlative.

Thanks for putting up with such a long letter. You've all done a great job. I'm getting *Miracleman* as often as it comes out!

Sincerely,
Alessandra Kelley
5406 S. Harper #402
Chicago IL 60615

You folks who don't know what Alessandra is talking about: ***Marvelman Special*** *was a British supplement to the story of M.man, which is appearing in the U.S.A. as (ta-da!)* ***Miracleman 3-D Special*** *#1. Go get it, right now! It's got 3-D effects by Ray Zone, a framing sequence by Alan Moore, art by Alan Davis,* ***and*** *three miraculous tales by the great Mick Anglo and Co.!*

• • • •

Dear cat and Dez,

Miracleman #1 was one of the hardest titles I've ever attempted to track down for my personal collection. (Hell, it was easier to get a pair of Bruce Springsteen tickets than trying to get multiple copies of *Miracleman!)* However, thanks to the input of Mssrs. Moore, Anglo, and Leach, this debut issue was well worth the effort and money I put into its acquisition.

Anyway, seeing as how I hope to procure a copy of #2 when it comes out, I guess I'd best sharpen my left jabs and try to get more power behind my right cross.

Since you don't currently have a title for the letter col, may I suggest "Miraclemail?"

Seeya next issue. (I hope.)

Slugger Orten
Route #4, Box 120
Somewhere in the United States

Too late, Elvis . . . it already is Miraclemail!!!!

• • • •

Dear Eclipse,

As I read through the opening story in *Miracleman* #1, my first contact with the hero, I honestly felt that nothing could be done to salvage a hero who had sidekicks such as Kid Miracleman and (even worse) Dicky Dauntless as Young Miracleman. My only comforting thought was that I had only spent 75 cents on this experiment, where most alternative comics are a lot more expensive.

Once I hit the page with the Nietzsche quote, I knew that I'd found something more. Going from dialogue such as "Gosh, Miracleman, you're tops!" to "Damn you, Liz, you're laughing at my life!" was certainly an abrupt change of tone. But it worked. I felt Miracleman's sense of horror at what Dr. Gargunza had done, I felt Liz's disbelief at discovering her husband's secret, and—most especially—I felt the tragedy and menace of Kid Miracleman, the palpable corruption in what had once been good and young. Taking something as harmless and fun as the Miracleman Family adventures of the fifties and exposing it to the harsher light

of reality (as far into reality as comic books can go, that is) makes this concept one of the most exciting ones I've been introduced to in six years of reading comics, and at the price it is commercially equal to those of the mainstream. I hope this means we'll be seeing the book regularly and for some time to come.

Roger Z. Cadenhead
3301 Brookglen
Garland TX 75042

You bet you will!

* * * *

Dear Moore and Leach,

I'd like to start this letter by thanking you for the price of *Miracleman* #1. This comic, after just one issue, has a *very* promising future.

I confess—when I started reading the first story I was quite skeptical. *Young* Miracleman? *Kid* Miracleman?? The Miracleman *Family???* I was considering quitting halfway through Chapter 1! I mean, this was great for the 1950s, but 1985? I truly wasn't sure.

And then I reached the Moore/Leach section of the story. Now, I'll tell you right now that I'm a *big* fan of Alan Moore. There are many people whose writing I like very much, but Moore is my all-time favorite. He's a creative genius who will probably never be surpassed.

And *Miracleman* #1 just proved that even more.

Garry Leach's art was fabulous, too. I don't believe I have ever seen any of his work before, but I hope I see more of it in the future.

And as for these two together? They made a story that I was ready to laugh at into one I was awed by. It was totally twisted around so that, by the end of the story, I was regretting my hasty judgments and awaiting next month's issue (it *is* monthly, isn't it?).

I know the first several issues will be reprinting stories originally published in the British magazine *Warrior,* but what happens after that? Will Moore continue as the writer (Please!)? I heard that Alan Davis was going to draw it, but that he decided not to. Who will draw it—Leach or someone else? When will the reprinting end and the new stories begin?

Well, that's about all. I think the current story line with Kid Miracleman is an ingenious idea, and I promise never to judge any comic before it's fully read ever again (really!).

I'm sorry for you having all those problems while trying to get *Miracleman* on the stands, but look—all your troubles were rewarded!

Much Luck to All,

Eric R. Bosshart
1047 Everglades Drive
Pacifica CA 94044

After the ***Warrior*** *reprint material by Alan Moore, Garry Leach, and Alan Davis runs out (somewhere around the middle of issue 6), new artist Chuck Beckum will be joining Mr. Moore to take this series onward, upward, forward, and into the future. You want a sample of Chuck's handling of the characters? See the fact sheet stuck in with these here letters, okay?*

Monthly? Well, we started out bi-monthly, but soon hit the harder stuff. Monthly it is, mates, full steam ahead!

* * * *

To the Eclipse crew:

Re: *Miracleman* #1—one word. Wowzer. I started reading this one and thought it was just a ripoff of *Captain Marvel,* but by the time I got to the end of the book I was riveted. The last few panels were awesome!

I found myself turning the page hoping there was *more!* Garry Leach's artwork is stunning, and the dark colors really carry the feel of the story.

Speaking of story—ouch. We go from nuclear terrorism to *The Exorcist* to the Infinite Improbability Drive with a turn of the page. The dream sequence on pp 12 & 13 blew me away, and I absolutely can't say enough about the last two panels on p 31.

Will this do? Bravo! More! More!!

Awaiting the next ish breathlessly . . .

B J Stenberg
354 NW Edvard #A
Poulsbo WA 98370

Glad you liked it. Stick around. It gets better!

* * * *

Dear Miraculous Ones,

You people must be just about at the point of tearing out all your hair by now! I mean, you set up a plan to bring the price of an independent down into the range of the mainstream publications, and what happens? The demand for the comic is so unpredictably high that copies are almost impossible to find and it is selling for two, three, and even four times cover price on the day it hits the stands! Only after substantial searching was I able to get ahold of a copy—and I won't say *what* I had to pay for it! Ah well, these things will sort themselves out in an issue or two when supply catches up to demand. And, of course, I suppose it's nicer to have these sorts of problems rather than having a comic that no one wants to buy! Still, it must be tremendously frustrating for all this confusion and disruption to arise, through no fault of your own.

Having read the original M*****man stories when they appeared in *Warrior,* I was not surprised at the high quality of the contents of *Miracleman* #1. In fact, it is a sincere compliment when I say that the stories are as good and exciting as I remember them from my first reading of them—which is very good and very exciting indeed! I eagerly await both the representation of the previously published stories and (finally!) the appearance of all-new tales.

I hope that *Miracleman* starts a trend in independent comics, since one of the negative factors in their general

MIRACLEMAN

Mike Moran's father flew with the R.A.F. during World War II. When he died, Mike was orphaned and a secret branch of Airforce Intelligence known as THE SPOOKSHOW used him as a test subject in an experiment termed PROJECT ZARATHUSTRA.

In 1954 Mike was given the ability to exchange his place in space and time with a super-powered cellular replicate, MIRACLEMAN. The body occupying infra-space has no consciousness and does not age. Though the two bodies are separate, all thoughts and memories are shared through the use of an infra-spacial trigger device, activated by the 'magic' word, "Kimota."

For the next eight years Mike lay dreaming the many adventures of Miracleman, while his responses and reactions were tested by ZARATHUSTRA's mastermind, Professor Gargunza.

In 1963, THE SPOOKSHOW decided to terminate PROJECT ZARATHUSTRA by destroying Miracleman with an atomic bomb. They were only partially successful. Unknown to all, Mike Moran awoke months later, burned, broken and with no memory of having been Miracleman. He managed to piece his life back together, becoming a freelance journalist and marrying a woman named Liz. In 1982, while covering a terrorist attack on a nuclear power plant, he stumbled across his magic word and Miracleman was back.

KID MIRACLEMAN

John Bates is the orphaned child of deceased Air Force personnel, and like Mike Moran, he was used by THE SPOOKSHOW as a test subject in PROJECT ZARATHUSTRA. In 1954 was given the ability to change places in space and time with a super-powered cellular replicate, KID MIRACLEMAN, through the use of the 'magic' word, "Miracleman." As with Mike Moran/Miracleman, all of Johnny Bates/Kid Miracleman's thoughts and memories are shared between the two bodies, while the body occupying infra-space has no consciousness and does not age.

For eight years Johnny Bates was put through the same dream tests as Miracleman, and when PROJECT ZARATHUSTRA was terminated in 1963, Kid Miracleman also survived. Unlike Mike Moran, he remembered everything, and he decided to retain the powers of Kid Miracleman while assuming the identity of John Bates. For the next 19 years Kid Miracleman aged and went on to found a large trans-global electronics firm, amassing money and power along the way. When Miracleman returned, Kid Miracleman saw him as a threat to his position and tried to kill him. In the ensuing battle, Kid Miracleman accidentally spoke his magic word, changing him back to thirteen-year-old Johnny Bates. Since then he has spoken his magic word several times, but for some unknown reason no transfer has occurred.

acceptance has always been their relatively high price.

Yours truly,
"T.M. Maple"
Box 1272, Station B
Weston Ont M9L 2R9
Canada

*Look for our other 75¢ comics, too—**The New DNAgents** and **Laser Eraser and Pressbutton**. Direct sales quality at newsstand prices . . . and like that.*

• • • •

Dear Sirs,

Miracleman is great! I liked the way you handled the intro, but it's too bad about your distribution problems. I'm glad I ordered plenty, though!

About the best thing of the 'new' Miracleman is the art! Garry Leach is really a super artist, and teamed with Alan Moore, who can go wrong? I'm glad you haven't gone to the 'new' printing process that Marvel has moved on to. It would make your book as pathetic as theirs are beginning to appear.

I'm very thankful for companies like Eclipse and First Comics. They have forced quality on the 'big two,' and DC has shown a super improvement with competition. Too bad Marvel can't get the message. Keep it up!

Dennis Heaton
1301 Lakeside Way #309
Atlanta GA 30319

*No, we will never use Flexographic printing, Dennis . . . and thanks for the vote of confidence for the Independents. I wouldn't exactly say we had "distribution problems," because all the wholesale distributors **did their part** in getting the book out . . . anyway, that's past, and it looks like smooth sailing from now on.*

• • • •

Dear Editor:

Okay, listen up. Here's the story.

When I first heard about *Miracleman* in an Eclipse press release I thought to myself—"Hmmm, Captain Marvel clone." I really didn't put a lot of thought behind it. I didn't order the comic from my subscription service (Westfield Comics). In fact, I didn't think about *Miracleman* until I read about it becoming a collectors item before it even hit the comic shops. The *Comic Buyer's Guide* and the *Westfield Newsletter* were both talking about it. I've read where some dealers are already charging $1.50 for the book. I figured that it was a good thing I hadn't ordered it; I would have never received it, from the sound of things.

Yesterday I was at a local comics shop here in the Huntington area (Comic World). As I was gazing through the racks I saw *Miracleman* #1. In fact, I saw more than 5 copies. Well, I bought three of 'em. I kept one and sent the other two to some friends of mine that told me of their plight of not being able to get ahold of the book in their area. I read the book last night. *I was impressed!*

I was drawn into the story and characters by Alan Moore's great story-telling style. I've really got a thing for stories that span a great length of time with recurring characters. In other words, I took the bait and ran.

I now plan on picking up on every issue of *Miracleman*. As long as the quality of the book is kept at the same level as the first issue, I'll be here chucking down my 75¢.

Thanks for teaching an old dog a new trick.

Stay outta trouble.

Stephen Scott Beau Smith
Comicast, Inc.
711 6th Street West
Huntington WV 25704

*Thank you, S.S.B.S., for **learning** a new trick.*

NEXT ISSUE...

JIM STARLIN does the cover honors on MM 4!